

Dear Representative Luxemburg, Senator Moore and members of the Housing Committee,

My name is Nancy Kirchmyer. I live in Hebron and I strongly support HB 6633, An Act Concerning a Needs Assessment and Fair share Plans for Municipalities to Increase Affordable Housing.

I am representing my town and, as a member of Asylum Hill Congregational Church in Hartford, I am also representing the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

GHIAA is an organization of 50 congregations that seeks to be anti-racist and to challenge the status quo when we see injustice. We know that it is because of redlining and other conscious zoning choices of the past that Connecticut today remains one of the most segregated states in our nation. I believe that this is unacceptable! Connecticut has a housing crisis that must be addressed in a big way and not with small measures. As we strive to fix our unjust housing we have a chance to create something good and lasting. We have a chance to provide a new way where all of our citizens can thrive.

Connecticut needs housing that our workers can afford, housing that would allow them to live in the towns where they work, and housing that would allow their children the opportunity to attend better schools than they presently attend in our struggling cities. We lack housing for college grads who want to remain in or come home to this state after college but can't find housing that they can afford. We also need housing for elderly residents who may wish to stay in our communities but need to downsize to homes they can better afford. This situation is terrible for so many of our citizens. I ask you to use your power to change our state into one that is more equitable and inclusive.

I see Fair Share HB 6633 as a big step in the right direction. For those who want local control the bill allows each town to come up with plans that they feel are best for their community. It doesn't have to be accomplished overnight, but we will need to show a good faith effort towards meeting our goals. We shouldn't fear having to meet a deadline. Indeed, we were able to fulfill our obligation which was due this past year. That deadline got us into motion! It's too easy to procrastinate when there are no incentives. I believe this is a good and workable plan that will help our community thrive economically and culturally.

Thank you for the work you have done and for listening to so many hours of testimony. I watched online on that snowy day last week from 10am until 10:30pm, and I watched the recording of the rest of the testimony, which stretched into the wee hours of the morning. Thank you for your perseverance and thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,
Nancy Kirchmyer
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Hebron, CT